

ABSTRACT

5 A method and an apparatus for providing Instant Messaging (IM)
capability in digital telephone sets is disclosed. The invention allows telephone users
to compose and display Instant Messages and to exchange contact lists with other
telephone users or users of an Internet-based messaging system. The method of the
invention in one embodiment allows digital telephones, with limited keys and display
space, to support the full functionality of Instant Messaging. Quick compose and
10 quick reply mechanisms allow sending common messages with minimum keypad
button pushes. The invention also allows Computer Supported Telephony
Application (CSTA) based messages to interface with the Session Initiation Protocol
(SIP) messages, thus permitting IM exchanges between digital telephone set users and
Window Messenger clients.

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